THE Boston- 386 AND COUNTRY Gazette, JOURNAL.

No. 577.

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1766.

ADVERTISEMENT
Extraordinary.

Great GEORGE and PATRIOT PITT for ever sing.

THIS is to Certify all whom it may Concern, in Europe, Asia, Africa or America, that all Rejoicings and Exhibitions of Joy throughout this Continent, on Occasion of the Repeal of the Stamp Act, be they general Illuminations, Ringing of Bells, Bonfires, Firing of Guns, or other Fire Works will be in Duty and Loyalty to our most gracious SOVEREIGN, in Respect, Love and Gratitude to his patriotic MINISTRY, and in Honor of the immortal PITT, and of the ILLUSTRIOUS FIVE; and all THOSE and those ONLY who are and were for Repealing that *detestable* Act as unconstitutional: And in the highest *Triumph* over, and *Contempt* of an *infernal, atheistical, Popish* and *Jacobite* Crew, on BOTH Sides the Atlantic; who by the kind Providence of ALMIGHTY GOD, are *totally*, and tis to be hoped EVERLASTINGLY frustrated in their DIABOLICAL Purposes towards *Great-Britain* and her *Colonies*.

P. S. All Printers throughout this Continent are desired to publish this Advertisement.

For the Benefit of the Insurers.

TO-MORROW

WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC VENDUE, at the Royal Exchange Tavern, in King Street, at One o'Clock;

70 Bolts *(Damaged)* DUCK, from No. 1 to No. 9, which may be viewed at the Place of Sale. J. Russell, Auctioneer.

AT PRIVATE SALE.

A strong well-built SLOOP, Burthen 65 Tons, is not one Year old, extremely well found, and a prime Sailer —For further Particulars, inquire of J. Russell,—of whom may be had an Inventory of her Stores.

ALSO,

A sprightly, active Negro Woman about 24 Years of Age, who can do all Kind of House Business, and have a good Recommendation.

TO-MORROW,

Will be Sold at Public Vendue, at the Royal Exchange Tavern in King Street, at One o'Clock, (if not Sold before at private Sale)

4 *likely young Negro Boys, two* 19 *Years of Age, one of* 15 *and the other about* 10—*All lately from the Gold Coast* ☞ *Any Persons who incline to purchase at private Sale, are desired to apply to* J. *Russell, Auctioneer.*

Public Vendue.

To be Sold by Public Vendue, at the Store under *Green* and *Russell's* Printing Office, in Queen-Street, on TUESDAY the 29th of *April* Inst. at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

A Variety of House Furniture,

belonging to the Estate of a Gentleman lately deceas'd, consisting of Tables, Chairs, Looking-Glasses, Feather Beds and Bedding, some Plate, a very beautiful japann'd and gilt Cabinet, Kitchen Furniture &c. &c.

J. RUSSELL, Auctioneer.

Cash given for good POT-ASH,
By *George Erving.*

TO BE SOLD,

A convenient and pleasantly situated House in Frogg Lane, two Rooms on a Floor, and two Stories high, with a good Yard, Garden and fine Well of Water. Also a valuable Piece of Land, measuring 50 Feet in Front upon the Street leading into the Common, and 160 odd Feet deep. Inquire of the Printers.

TO BE SOLD,

At the *BROKER's STORE*, the Corner of *Kilby*-Street; Several Ships and smaller Vessels (by private Sale) Cordage, Russia Duck, Burford Cod Lines, best Hyson and Bohea Tea, Loaf Sugar, Florence Oyl per Chest or Flask, *Young's* Mustard per Box or Dozen, Cheshire Cheese, a few Pipes Fyal Wines, a few Barrels of Mackrel, a few of Tar, *Carolina* and this Country Sole Leather, Boxes of Glass, 7 by 5, 7 by 9, 10 by 8, very neat, Cyder by the Barrel or Quantity, an Invoice of about £ 100 Sterling, consisting of Stone, Shoe and Knee Buckles, plain Gold & Stone Rings, Broaches, very neat Watch Seals, Stone Sleeve Buttons, &c. at the Sterling Cost, a Quantity of Hams and Fletches of Bacon, *Kippen's* Snuff by Cask or Dozen &c. cheap for Cash. Wanted for the Cash, two good Vessels, from 100 to 120 Tons.

Wanted to Hire, 600 Dollars,

for which Land Security will be given, by inquiring of the Printers hereof.

TO BE SOLD,

A Double Deck'd Vessel, about 115 Tons, standing on the Stocks, almost finish'd, may be made a Schooner or Brig. For Particulars, enquire of *Joseph Webb*, on *Phillips's* Wharf, Oliver's-Dock. Who has likewise to dispose of, about 90 Barrels Alewives, a Quantity of Lignum-Vitæ. Also a few Hogsheads of *Antigua* Rum & Sugar.

POT ASH KETTLES of the best Kind as usual.

All Persons indebted to *Benjamin Adams*, (who now lives near the *Tree of Liberty*) by Book or Note, are desired to make speedy Pay; and all to whom he is indebted, are desired to call on him for their Dues, as he intends soon to leave the Province.—A Dwelling House, with a good Shop, Yard and Pump, in a good Place for Trade, to be Sold, inquire of said *Adams*——*N. B.* The Pay will be made easy to the Purchaser.

To be Sold, a large double House and Land, with four Rooms on a Floor, besides a Shop, it is situate in Fish-street, a very good Place for Business, very convenient for two Families, is in good Repair, and will Rent for £ 300 O. T. a Year, which is about Nine per Cent. A Farm in the Country within 30 Miles of *Boston*, will answer for Pay; or half Money half Goods, as may best suit the Purchaser. Inquire of the Printers.

THE Commissioners, appointed by the Honorable *Foster Hutchinson*, Esq; Judge of Probate for the County of *Suffolk* to receive and examine the Claims of the several Creditors to the Estate of Mr. *John Morley*, late of *Boston*, Merchant, deceased, represented Insolvent—Give Notice, that they shall attend that Service at the House of Mr. *Thomas Hubbart*, in King street, *Boston*, on the Fourth Tuesday in this and the five following Months, from Seven to Nine o'Clock, P. M. *Boston April* 8 1766.

Whereas the Proprietor's Meeting of *New Concord*, in the Province of *New-Hampshire*, stands adjourned to the 21st of *May*, 1766. These therefore are to warn the Proprietors and Settlers, to meet at Mr. *Thomas Munroe's* in *Concord*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*, on said Day, at 10 o'Clock Forenoon, to chuse a Proprietor's Clerk and Treasurer, and sundry other Articles in the Warrant issued for these Purposes.

HENRY PRICE, *Moderator.*

Westtown, in the Province of New Hampshire, March 10 1766.

Whereas Ann, *the Wife of me the Subscriber, has absented my House and Bed: For these and many other Reasons, I hereby forewarn all Persons from harbouring or trusting her on my Account: for I declare I will not pay any Debt she may contract after the Date hereof. As Witness my Hand.*

JAMES CLEMENTS.

☞ Vide the Act page 53.

Wednesday last Capt Calef from London; on Friday Capt Cabson from Glasgow; on Saturday Capt. McLean from Belfast; and Yesterday Captain Jacobson from London, arrived here in 6 Weeks — From the Letters and public Prints bro't by them to the 6th of March, we have collected the following Advices, viz.

PARIS, February 12.

THE dissention so happily subsisting between Great-Britain and her Colonies, has, it is whispered, given our ministry so much spirits, that they are determined not to be too hasty in discharging the Canada bills.

Vienna, Feb 5. This day died, greatly lamented, Field Marshal Count Daun, Commander in Chief of all the Imperial Forces.

Hague, Feb 10. By private letters from Paris 'tis mentioned, that in case a certain neighbouring kingdom should proceed to extremities with its dependencies, there will not be wanting a sufficient power to protect the latter against the warmest resentment of their Mother Country.

LONDON.

Jan. 18. Died at Copenhagen Frederick V. King of Denmark.

Feb. 10. The Act for restraining North American Paper Currency, it is confidently said, will be repealed this sessions.

We hear that at a late meeting of some Merchants, at the King's Arms, upon an important question, a motion was made for petitioning his Majesty to enforce the Stamp-Act; but the question being put, the numbers on dividing stood thus:

Against the motion,	274
For it,	134
Majority	140

Last week a packet was received from the Hon. Henry Franklin, his Majesty's Consul General for the protection of the British commerce in Portugal.

On Thursday last the University of Oxford, in full convocation, conferred the following degrees by diploma, viz. The degree of Doctor in Divinity, on the Rev. Mr. Henry Caner, Minister of King's Chapel at Boston: The same degree on the Rev. Mr. Samuel Auchmuty, Rector of Trinity Church in New-York: The same degree on the Rev. Mr. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, Missionary of Elizabeth Town in New Jersey: And the degree of Doctor in Civil Law, on Mr. William Samuel Johnson, an eminent Practitioner of the Law in England, and many years Master of Arts in both the New-England colleges.

We are told an Act of Bankruptcy is on the carpet, calculated for the use of the American Colonies.

LONDON.

Feb. 20. We are informed, that one manufacturer in the shoe way in this city, since the resolution of the Americans to wear their own manufactures, has been obliged to reduce the number of his workmen from about three hundred and fifty to less than fifty. And that another in the stocking trade has been obliged to discharge as large a proportion of his workmen on the same account.

A great Commoner we hear has publickly declared, that had he been the projector of the American stamp act, he would have dispatched a fleet to see it properly enforced, as he was sensible it never could be tamely submitted to by any persons who had the least idea of liberty.

Extract of a Letter from Amsterdam, dated Feb 22.

"We are here in the greatest uneasiness for fear your Parliament should repeal the Stamp-Act, as you well know, nothing can tend more to the promotion of our trade, than a disunion between Great Britain and her Colonies."

Feb. 25. We are told, that orders were sent by Saturday's post (on hearing the affair of the Stamp-Act) to Sheffield, Birmingham, Leeds, and other manufacturing towns, for goods to the amount of 40,000l. for the American trade.

A letter has been lately sent up a certain great personage, desiring him to quit the kingdom, or to be prepared for very fatal consequences.

Some words happening in a great assembly between two gentlemen a few nights ago, a proper authority interposed, and prevented any dangerous issue to the altercation.

The NORTH-BRITON, No. CXCI.

This Moment is the Crisis of your Fate. ROWE.

THE Nature of the British Constitution is so extremely delicate, that the Moment it receives the smallest Attack we ought to shudder for its very Existence unless we take Care to punish the Persons who have made this Attack, or establish some effectual Method to prevent a Repetition of the Insolence in future. Kingdoms, like Individuals, if they suffer themselves to be once imposed upon by the artful Representations of interested Plausibility, will of course expose themselves to the continual Practices of the Designing, and be made the everlasting Tools of disguised Enemies or perfidious Friends.

For these Reasons, therefore, it behoves us to be remarkably cautious how we embrace the Opinions of those who have once led us into an Error; or imagine that these People can in an Instant be supposed to labour for our Interest, who, during the whole Course of their Administration, were notoriously plunging us into the deepest Distress. --- The Minds of Men do not always alter with their Appearance. --- Pride, Rancour, and Ambition, may secretly lurk in the Besom, while the Face is dressed in an affected Air of Complacency and Candour; and nothing is more natural, than for a Minister who has been discarded for his Incapacity, to wish that all his Successors may be as despicable as himself.

I am insensibly led into these Reflections, from the unceasing Solicitude which the Friends of the late Administration manifest, to prove that every Oppression which is laid upon the Shoulders of the American Colonies must of course exonerate the Mother-Country from a Burden, and have an immediate Tendency to the Prosperity of this Kingdom. --- If the good People of Great Britain were not as remarkable for their Credulity, as for any of their Virtues, I should have been astonished to find, that such a Doctrine could possibly make a single Convert, where it is so palpably refuted by the incontestible Evidence of Fact. But as the public Stomach has a remarkable Facility of Digestion, it may be highly worth our While to consider this pretty Position a little seriously, as the Concerns of the Colonies seem at present to engross the universal Attention of the British Dominions.

In the first Place then, I shall readily give the Enemies of America what they have so strenuously struggled for, and acknowledge, in diametrical Opposition to every Sentiment both of Reason and Equity, that the Mother Country has a Right of Taxing the Colonies as she thinks proper, and that it is the most daring Act of Insolence, for the Americans to refuse an implicit Obedience to the Ordinances of Great Britain, let these Ordinances be never so despotic in the Manner, and never so injurious in their End. --- But at the same Time that I make this Concession, I flatter myself, if I can shew that the Mother Country would do herself the most irreparable Injury by an arbitrary Exercise of this Right to tax the Colonies, that then the Arguments in Favour of the Stamp Duty will entirely fall to the Ground.

"*And, like the baseless Fabric of a Vision,*
"*Leave not a Wreck behind.*"

I believe it will be allowed, that, at the first Institution of Colonies, the sole End of the British Nation was to extend her Commerce, and not to establish so many Plantations of Slaves. --- As Trade was the very Essence of our public Existence, we proposed Nothing to ourselves but an Extention of our Traffic, since in that single Circumstance every Thing was to be found which could either conduce to the Encrease of our Power, or the Promotion of our Prosperity. --- The Principle upon which we originally set out, was no less prudent than it was equitable; and so long as it continued to influence our Actions, so long the great End of Colonization was perfectly answered, and so long we reaped the Sweets of it, in the Security of our Repose and the Enlargement of our Fortunes.

Unhappily, however, instead of being thankful to Providence for the Benefits thus accruing from our Colonies, we repined that these Benefits were not considerably greater; and therefore we sacrificed the Advantages which we really possessed, through an insatiable Avarice for more --- Our Conduct, on this Occasion, resembled the well known, but pertinent Story, of the Woman who had a Hen that every Day laid her a Golden Egg --- For some Time the good Woman was extremely happy in so valuable a Possession, and grew so rich as to attract the Envy of all her Neighbours: When, O dire Misfortune! being impatient to gain the Summit of her Wishes at once, and imagining if she killed the poor Animal she would find an inexhaustible Treasure, she fairly dispatched it; but had the insuperable Mortification to find her Avarice punished not only with the total Disappointment of her Expectations, but with the Loss of every Advantage which she possessed before she so rashly proceeded on her fatal Experiment.

The Continent of America, before the injudicious Restrictions on its Commerce, and the late arbitrary Power which the Mother Country has exercised of taxing it at Discretion, upon a Modetate Calculation, took off no less a Quantity of British Manufactures, than what amounted to Three Millions Sterling a Year; and this Demand, prodigious as it must be considered, was so far from having any Appearance of a Decline, that, on the contrary, it was continually on the Encrease, and would, in all Probability, have very quickly doubled, from the astonishing Rapidity of the American Population. --- Yet so unhappily blind have we been to the Enjoyment of this invaluable Certainty, that we have ridiculously sacrificed it for the inconsiderable Hope of saving a paltry seventy or eighty thousand Pounds a Year. --- The Stamp Act can scarcely bring us in a Sixpence more if it be enforced; and can we look upon this as a sufficient Equivalent for the numberless Advantages which we received from the uninterrupted Possession of the American Commerce? Can Eighty Thousand Pounds a Year, together with the Enmity of all the Colonies, compensate for the Loss of a clear Two Millions Profit at least, a certain Increase of that Profit, and the Friendship of the whole American Continent? The Question is an Insult upon the Understanding of every considerate Man; and is the severest Reflection that can be possibly thrown out against the common Sense of the English Nation.

But suppose the Stamp Act cannot be enforced, what shall we then say to the Propriety of that Measure, or what shall we say to the Effrontery of those who want to cram it so violently down the Throat of the Kingdom? To be sure, the Mother Country may proceed to actual Hostilities, and may send a powerful Body of Forces over to America, to spread Ruin and Desolation wherever an instant Submission is not shewn to this blessed Ordinance. --- This, to be sure, the Mother Country may do. --- But the great Question will be then, whether or no such a Plan of Operations can be conducive to her Interest? 'Twill appear rather an extraordinary Mode of Proceeding, for the People of Great Britain to expend an immense Profusion both of Treasure and Blood, to establish an American Territory, and then, the Moment they have established this Territory, to send over an Armament, at a still farther Expence, to lay it all in Flames, merely because its Inhabitants have refused to be trampled into Dust, and have spiritedly laid a Claim to some little Interest in their own Properties and their own Lives. This is the very Thing which our worthy Neighbours the French and Dutch have ardently languished for; this is the very Thing for which their Emissaries have been so incessantly industrious to poison the public Mind; and the People of Great Britain, with the genuine Spirit of Quixotical Heroism, like so many Dragons Teeth, shall fight themselves to Death, for the general Interest and Entertainment of all Europe.

Without the Mother Country proceeds to this Extremity, there is but little Prospect of ever carrying the Stamp Act into Execution. --- And if she does proceed to it, the Consequences must be dreadful to the Interest of England. --- In Support of a Law passed by an injudicious Minister, a Civil War will not only be carried on between the Mother Country and her Colonies, but the Trade of the Plantations will be irrecoverably lost, and all those Advantages will be for ever annihiliated, which have cost the former so incredible a Profusion both of Treasure and of Blood.

The present Crisis is really an alarming one. 'Tis in Fact, the most important that has ever been known in the Annals of the British Empire. --- The Question now is, whether, to support a Tax as inconsiderable as it is arbitrary, we shall drive three Millions of our most industrious Subjects into Despair, hazard all the Horrors of a Civil War, and eternally sacrifice the accumulating, the invaluable Advantages which we reaped from a friendly Intercourse with the Colonies --- Or, by a judicious Repeal of a Law which we ourselves universally condemn, restore the general Peace and Prosperity, and establish our Interest upon a more lasting Foundation than it has ever been raised upon, since our first Existence as a People? I hope, idly as we have often acted in Defence of an imaginary Honour, that we shall, nevertheless, be too sensible to support an unjust Punctilio in Opposition to Reason; and too generous to vindicate an actual Oppression, for fear the World should suppose it was possible for us to be guilty of a Mistake, --- To be sure, if we proceed to Extremities with the Colonies, we may destroy them in an Instant; but let us seriously consider, whether the laying of all their Cities in Ashes would not be the most dreadful Suicide which we could commit upon ourselves? Let us seriously consider whether, by such a Measure, we, who are now the greatest commercial Nation in Europe, would not, in an Instant, reduce ourselves to a State of the most contemptible Insignificance, and become as much the Derision of our Enemies as the Pity of our Friends? --- In short, let us not, through a Principle of ridiculous Heroism, be insensible of our own Interest; nor, through a Motive of ill-grounded Resentment, commit an actual Murder upon ourselves.

Upon the whole, let us even suppose that the Stamp Act could be enforced without proceeding to such dreadful Extremities, still let us consider whether, by insisting on it too strenuously, we shall not totally invert the original End of Colonization --- The Americans are now busy in establishing all sorts of necessary Manufactures amongst themselves. --- They are entering into Associations of the most spirited Nature, never to give an Order to the Mother Country for a single Article, till this odious Duty is repealed. While we deliberate, therefore, we are lost --- While we are lamenting the Decay of our Trade, the Recovery of that Trade is, in a Manner, impossible; so that, unless we instantly determine, we may as well never determine at all --- Perhaps this Subject may be farther enforced; for the present it is only necessary to observe, that as the principal Existence of Great-Britain is Commerce, so the principal Existence of that Commerce depends upon the Possession of our Colonies, and every Measure must stab at our European Dominion, which strikes at our Dominion in America.

oooooooo vide the Act page 53

LONDON, January 28.

To the Honorable the Commons of Great Britain *in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the Merchants of *London*, trading to *North-America*.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners have long been concerned in carrying on the Trade between this Country and the British Colonies on the Continent of *North-America*.

That they have annually exported very large Quantities of British Manufactures, consisting of Woolen Goods of all kinds, Cottons, Linnens, Hardware, Shoes, Household Furniture, and, almost without Exception, of every Species of Goods manufactured in these Kingdoms; besides other Articles imported from abroad, chiefly purchased with our Manufactures, and with the Produce of our Colonies; by all which, many thousand Manufacturers, Seamen, and Labourers have been employed, to the very great and increasing Benefit of this Nation.

That, in Return for these Exports, your Petitioners have received from the Colonies, Rice, Indico, Tobacco, Naval Stores, Oyl, Whalefins, Furrs, and lately, Pot-Ash, with other Commodities; besides Remittances by Bills of Exchange and Bullion, obtained by the Colonists in Payment for Articles of their Produce not required for the British Market, and therefore exported to other Places.

That, from the Nature of this Trade, consisting of British Manufactures exported, and of the import of raw Materials from America, many of them used in our Manufactures, and all of them tending to lessen our Dependance on neighbouring States, it must be deemed of the highest Importance in the commercial System of this Nation.

That this Commerce, so beneficial to the State, and so necessary for the Support of Multitudes, now lies under such Difficulties and Discouragements, that nothing less than it's utter Ruin is apprehended, without the immediate Interposition of Parliament.

That, in consequence of the Trade between the Colonies and the Mother Country as established and as permitted for many Years, and of the Experience which your Petitioners have had, of the Readiness of the Americans to make their just Remittances to the utmost of their real Ability, they have been induced to make and venture such large Exportations of British Manufactures, as to leave the Colonies indebted to the Merchants of Great Britain in the Sum of several Millions Sterling.

That, at this Time, the Colonists, when pressed for Payment, appeal to past Experience in Proof of their Willingness, but declare, it is not in their Power at present to make good their Engagements, alledging, that the Taxes and Restrictions laid upon them, and the Extension of the Jurisdiction of Vice-Admiralty Courts established by some late Acts of Parliament, particularly by an Act passed in the Fourth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled An Act for granting certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America --- and by an Act passed in the Fifth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled An Act for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties and other Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America, with several Regulations and Restraints, which, if founded in Acts of Parliament for defined Purposes, are represented to have been extended in such a Manner as to disturb legal Commerce and harass the fair Trader, have so far interrupted the usual and former most fruitful Branches of their Commerce, restrained the Sale of their Produce, thrown the State of the several Provinces into Confusion, and brought on so great a Number of actual Bankruptcies, that the former Opportunities and Means of Remittances and Payments are utterly lost and taken from them.

That your Petitioners are, by these unhappy Events, reduced to the Necessity of applying to this Honourable House, in order to secure themselves and their Families from impending Ruin --- to prevent a Multitude of Manufacturers from becoming a Burden to the Community, or else seeking their Bread in other Countries, to the irretrievable Loss of this Kingdom --- to preserve the Strength of this Nation intire --- it's Commerce flourishing --- the Revenues increasing, our Navigation, the Bulwark of the Kingdom, in a State of Growth and Extension, and the Colonies,

from Inclination, Duty and Intereſt, firmly attached to the Mother Country.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray the Conſideration of the Premiſes, intreating ſuch Relief, as to the Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe ſhall ſeem expedient. *And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray.*

BOSTON, April 21.

Extract of a Letter from London, *Feb.* 8. 1766.

" The preſent moſt worthy Adminiſtration devote a good deal of Time and Attention to American Matters, and as no Conſultations can be had while the Houſe is ſitting, ſome of us are obliged to devote all our Mornings and Evenings to that Service;---and while the Houſe ſits we attend conſtantly in the Lobby to implore and conjure every Member that paſſes to befriend us.

" The Petitions from the Colonies cannot be received from their Impropriety.---They are ſigned by Committees of Provinces who ſhew no Authority from the Petitioners, and are beſides conſidered as coming from Perſons improperly (at leaſt) joined. ---Had each Aſſembly petitioned in the Name of their own Conſtituents, they would have been received.

" That upon the whole it ſeems probable whatever is done, will be done upon the Petitions of the Merchants and Manufacturers, of which about 20 have been preſented from different Places.

" The late Miniſtry have an abſolute Majority in the Houſe of Lords, & it has been feared would Yeſterday have one in the Commons.

" On Monday our Examination comes on for the London Petition, when we expect to be thoroughly tortured."

Extract of another Letter from London, *Feb* 13.

" All our reliance is on the preſent Miniſtry, who to a Man, are for a full Repeal; but againſt them are united Lord B---'s and Mr. G---'s Factions, who have, the former particularly but too apparently an Influence of a dangerous Nature; in ſhort I really know not how it will end."

Extract of a Letter dated London, Feb. 13, 1766.

" *Both Houſes of Parliament are cloſely employed on American Affairs, and what is to be the Reſult of all, is the intereſting Queſtion not yet reſolved. Some Reſolves have paſſed both Houſes almoſt unanimouſly, viz. That the King, Lords and Commons of this Realm have always had, and ought to have the undoubted Right to Tax the Colonies---That dangerous Riots and Tumults have ariſen in the Colonies---That theſe Riots and Tumults have been greatly encouraged by certain Reſolves of the ſeveral Aſſemblies in the Colonies---That the King be addreſſed to give Inſtructions to his Governors to require of the ſeveral Aſſemblies, to make Reſtitutions to thoſe who have ſuffered by the late Riots and Inſurrections---and that thoſe Perſons, who have been active in endeavouring to ſupport the Act impoſing Stamp Duties on the Colonies, be taken into the Royal Favour and Protection. It will doubtleſs give you Pleaſure to know, that the Great* Pitt, *Mr.* Barre, *and two or three others, oppoſed the firſt Reſolve, in the Houſe of Common; Mr.* Pratt (*now Lord* Camden) *Lord* Shelburne, *Lord* Torrington, *Lord* Cornwallis, *and one or two other Lords, oppoſed this firſt Reſolve alſo in the Houſe of Lords---But the Reſolve of the Right of Taxation is made---The intereſting Queſtion, whether a Repeal or not, is not yet come on, but probably it will in a few Days. The Miniſtry are all in your Favour, as is Mr.* Pitt, *Mr.* Barre, *and ſome others in the Houſe of Commons; but all depends upon the Effects which their Reſolutions may have upon the Trade of this Nation---this will certainly govern, and herein lies your whole Dependance, and, I apprehend, your Safety.*

" 14th in the Evening---*favorable Accounts juſt received from the other End of the Town, which ſtrongly indicate a Repeal.*"

Extract of a Letter from London, *dated Feb* 11, 1766.

" The Stamp Act is now in a far Way to be Repealed in a few Days, owing to Mr. PITT's outdoing his uſual Out doings in the Cauſe of Liberty and his Country. It is impoſſible for me to remember a quarter Part of his Speech lately in the Houſe, but it was like himſelf, 'twas equal to all we could wiſh, and more than could have been expected. He told the Houſe of Commons, that the Parliament had no Right to tax the Colonies, and that the Act muſt be repealed, nothing leſs would do, and the ſooner it was done the better: He addreſſed himſelf to all the Men of landed Eſtates, and adviſed them if they would not Repeal the Act, to ſell their Eſtates immediately, for that they would ſink in Value a Quarter Part in a few Months, and advanced many Arguments againſt the Legality and the Expediency of the Act. He ſpoke with more Eloquence than ever did Cicero, for near two Hours, aſſerted the Rights of America, and proclaimed their Loyalty and Readineſs on all Occaſions during his Adminiſtration to levy with Chearfulneſs all the legal Demands that were made upon them to aſſiſt the Crown. In ſhort, all the Powers of that great Man were exerted againſt a very ſtrong Party, and has made more Friends among thoſe who know and love the Intereſt of their Country, and more Enemies among the Great than ever; and if every Province in America does not erect a laſting Mark of public Honour to the Savior of Great-Britain and themſelves, they never deſerve to be aſſiſted again when on the very Brink of Deſtruction.---I hope to congratulate you in my next on the abſolute Repeal of the Act, tho' the Petitions of the American Congreſs are rejected, and both Houſes have voted that they have a Right of taxing the Colonies, only five Lords againſt it, Torrington, Cornwallis, Shelburne, Campden and Paulet"

Extract from a Letter from London.

" *There are three Parties in the Houſe of Commons. One are for ſevere Methods---Another, for a Repeal; but for previous Reſolves to aſſert the Right and Power of Parliament The third which includes the Miniſtry, for a Repeal without any previous Reſolves at all.---But in Order to ſecure the Repeal, were obliged to agree to the Reſolves. By this Means 'tis apprehended they will be ſecure of a Majority on the great Queſtion. In this Light 'tis hoped the Americans will take the Reſolutions. However the Strength of Mr. G---n---l's Party has been tried, by his moving to enforce the Act, which was rejected by a Majority of above two to one in the Houſe of Commons, and in the Houſe of Lords the Motion was withdrawn.*

The Miniſtry detain the Packet, that it may carry the News of the Repeal; and have ſeveral other Regulations in Favour of America; and I really think them your Friends."

Extract from another Letter from London.

" *Since my laſt there have been great Debates about American Affairs, and many ill natured Things flung out againſt America, that I thought it abſolutely neceſſary to preſent your Petition, eſpecially as laſt Year your Petition by ſome Means miſcarried. I accordingly waited on General Conway, our Secretary of State, with that to his Majeſty which he ſaid he would preſent. That to the Houſe of Commons, I put into the Hands of our Member for Middleſex, a Man of conſiderable Influence in the Houſe, and Chairman of the American Committee, who was ſo well pleaſed with the Petition, that he undertook to preſent it to the Houſe, which he introduced, and read twice over with his Remarks thereon. It was taken up and ſupported by Mr. Pitt; but the Houſe objected to the Congreſs, and therefore after two Hours Debate it was dropp'd, without being either accepted or rejected.*

But General Conway deſired me to aſſure my Friends in America, it was not from any Diſreſpect to them, but purely from the Form. That to the Houſe of Lords, I delivered to Lord Dartmouth; but the Houſe would not accept it becauſe it was a Memorial, which that Houſe never accepts.

Sunday laſt Week we were rejoiced with an Account of the Repeal of the Stamp Act: This was by a Letter from Meſſrs R. and J. Day Merchants in London, to Mr Maxwell, a Merchant in Maryland, forwarded by Expreſs to Philadelphia; from thence by Water to Newport, Rhode Iſland; from which Place it was diſpatched by Expreſs to the Sons of Liberty in this Town: This Account bearing Date Feb. 8. was premature; as was alſo an Account from Piſcataqua, with the Advice via St Kitts, that it was repealed the 10th Feb. as is evident from the London Prints of later Date: But,

We have now better Grounds for publiſhing this Good, Great and Important Intelligence, as we have it from Captain Calef, viz.

That he was deſired to wait in the Downs 'til the Poſt came down on Saturday, 22d Feb. in which Time he received the following Letters:

Extract from a Letter to Captain Calef, *while he lay at the Downs, from a Merchant in* London.

London, 18th February 1766.

THE Committee for the Maſſachuſetts, &c. dined at the King's Arms in Palace Yard Yeſterday, when they received a Meſſage from Lord Rockingham, intimating that a Repeal had been agreed to the preceeding Evening in Council, and every other Mean that could be thought of for Relief of the Colonies, would be immediately taken into Conſideration---The Houſes in the Trade are ſo confident that Friday next will terminate this Affair to our Wiſhes, that they have began this Day to prepare their Orders which depended on the Repeal of this is unſpeakably atisfactory, and I ſincerely congratulate all our Friends upon this happy Turn.

' London, Feb. 21, 1766.

Now near 12 o'Clock at Night, I am at the New England Coffee-Houſe, in anxious Expectation of News from the Weſt End of the Town; but ſhall not have the Happineſs of ſending you (in this Letter) any Thing new; yet, I doubt not, it will finally be ended tonight.'

After Captain Calef received theſe Letters he intended to wait until next Night's Poſt, but the Wind blowing hard, he was obliged to put out. --- On his Paſſage he ſpoke with Captain Montgomery in a Snow from Cork bound to Philadelphia; who ſailed from Cork 18 Days after Capt: Calef left the Downs; and informed him he had a London Paper on board, which was brought to Cork the Day before he ſailed; wherein was an Account of a TOTAL REPEAL of the --- STAMP ACT, on the 21ſt February.

To be Sold by *William Maxwell*, *in King Street.* ---*Velvet Corks, Cyder, Rum and old Jamaica and Cane Spirit; Brandy, Wine; Loaf and Brown Sugars; and ſundry other Articles, cheap for Caſh.*

CANDLES from 4 to 20 to the Pound, fit for Illumination, to be ſold by *Shubael Hewes* next Houſe Northward of the Governor's

The 3d of *Apil* Inſtant, came to the Barn of the Subſcriber in *Lyn*, a black hip'd Roan Mare, with the Saddle and Bridle on, the Saddle was old, with a blue Houſen, and an old Hatt tied to the Saddle. ---Whoever has loſt the ſaid Mare, by applying to the Subſcriber, and paying Charges, may have her again JOHN HAWKES.

Taken out of the Shop of the Subſcriber, near the White Horſe Tavern, South End, laſt Friday, two Beaver Hatts, ſuppoſed to be ſtolen. Any ſuſpicious Perſon offering the ſame for Sale, it is deſired they may be ſtopt ---Any one who can give Information, ſo that the Perſon who took them may be convicted, ſhall be well rewarded, by

LAZARUS LeBARON.

N. B. Hatts of all Sorts made and Sold at ſaid Shop.

To be Sold very cheap,---A well-built Sloop, about 70 Tons Burthen, between 4 & 5 Years old; ſuitable for Whale Fiſhery or Coaſting, and a prime Sailor: Inquire of the Printers. (a) vide page 381

TO BE SOLD,

A Large convenient Dwelling Houſe in *Haverhill*, within 10 Rods of the Meeting Houſe, with three Rooms and a Shop upon a Floor, with a Warehouſe and Barn, a large Garden, and a good Well of Water, ſuitable for a Trader. For further Particulars, inquire of (b) vide page 381

Benjamin Harrod, of *Boſton*, or *Peter Page*, of *Haverhill*.

WHEREAS the proprietors of the townſhip formerly granted by the Great and General Court to *Jonathan Powers* and others, lying back of *North-Yarmouth*, in the county of *Cumberland*, (called *New-Boſton*) at their meeting (legally warned) on the 10th of December laſt, voted that the ſum of *five pounds* be laid as a tax on each right in the townſhip, to be paid by each proprietor in one month from that time, to defrey the charge of building and finiſhing the mills in the ſaid townſhip, and paying off the arrears of the propriety. And whereas ſome of the proprietors are ſtill delinquent in paying the ſaid tax, and ſome former taxes: (c) vide the Circular Letter & Margin page 180 (d) vide page 381

THESE are therefore to notify ſuch delinquent proprietors, and all others, That the rights of thoſe perſons (who are delinquent in paying ſaid tax and any former taxes) or ſo much thereof as ſhall be ſufficient to ſatisfy the ſame, with contingent charges, will be ſold at publick vendue at the Britiſh Coffee Houſe in *Boſton, New England*, on the ſeventh Day of *May* next, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon. The rights that are delinquent are thoſe that belong to the following lots in the firſt diviſion, viz.

N° 1 belonging to *Joſeph Calef*
9 ---- to *Iſaac Wills*
11 ---- to *Gerſhom Williams*
17 ---- to *Joſeph Calef*
19 ---- to *Joſeph Calef*
21 ---- to *Samuel Hewes's* Heirs
23 ---- to *Thomas Oxnard's* Heirs
21 ---- to *John Beveridge*
28 ---- to *Jonathan Powers's* Heirs
30 ---- to *Samuel Hewes's* Heirs
46 ---- to *Joſeph Calef*
53 ---- to *Samuel Hewes's* Heirs
55 ---- to *Henry Price*
59 ---- to *Job Lewis's* Heirs
63 ---- to *William* and *James Jackſon.*

Boſton, April 3, 1766. *Joſhua Herſhaw*, *John Ruddock*, *Thomas Gray* } Committee for Sale of Delinquent Proprietors Lands.

We the Subſcribers, being appointed by the Hon. Nathaniel Ropes, *Eſq; Judge of Probate of Wills, &c. for the County of* Eſſex, *to receive and examine the Claims of the ſeveral Creditors to the Eſtate of* William Eppes, *Eſq; late of* Salem, *deceas'd, repreſented inſolvent, and ſix Months being allowed ſaid Creditors from the Date hereof to bring in their Claims and prove their Debts.---WE hereby notify ſaid Creditors that we will attend that Buſineſs on the laſt Wedneſday of this Inſtant April, and on the laſt Wedneſday of the five next enſuing Months, at the Houſe of Mr.* Thomas Somerville, *Inholder in* Salem, *from Three o'Clock Afternoon, until Six, of ſaid Days.*

Salem, 8th April 1766. John Nutting. Nathan Goodale.

* Vide Lord Camden's Speech in Edes & Gills Paper Jan. 18, 1768 Vol. 2 page 10.

† vide Page 403. ‡ See Petitions & page 381. §§ Vide the Reſolves page 390. = vide Speech page 403 ‖ vide page 390. ** vid. pa. 53.

LONDON, *Feb.* 25.

FRIDAY morning by 8 o'clock the seats in the House of Commons were begun to be taken for the members by pinning down a ticket with their names on such seats as they chose, which were reserved for them till prayers began. They were 442 members present.

DUBLIN, March 4

Extract of a Letter from London.

THE House of Commons after employing three hours and an half preparatory to the debates on the American Question. Mr. G—y began it, & having expatiated some time on the Situation of America and this Country, inferred that it was necessary to Repeal the Stamp and Admiralty Act immediately, and made a motion to that purpose. He was seconded by Mr. C—p[illegible] secretary to the Treasury. To him C. Jenkins replied he acknowledged the imperfection of the Act, and moved that the words *alter* and *regulate* should be inserted instead of the word *repeal*. The Attorney General answered him in favor of the motion, and acknowledged that from the evidence which had been produced to the House his conviction arose of the necessity for the immediate Repeal. Mr. Ell—s then arose in Favour of the Act. Mr. B——ke (your Countryman) replied. He was remarkably great. About 11 o'clock Mr. Pitt (who went to the House in flannel and with crutches) arose and spoke an hour in favor of the Repeal, and in the course of his speech paid great compliments to Mr. Conway and Mr. Bourke. G. Grenville was the next speaker; he was interested to defend the measures, as he advised the Act, and so far as he had any foundation to proceed upon was not unentertaining.—The question between one and two a'clock was called for, and on the division of numbers in favor of the REPEAL, was

	275
Against it	167
Majority	108

Saturday as soon as the news relating to the American Stamp Act reached the city, the Bells of St Michael's, Cornhill, and those at Bow Church &c were rung.

Saturday the captains in the West India trade displayed their colours on board their respective vessels in the Thames on the above occasion.

March 1. We are assured, that the Bets now run 275 to 167, that the Stamp Act will be repealed; and it is thought that the odds will be still higher by Monday. On this occasion every Well-wisher to his Country must rejoice to find that the Knowing ones are so likely to be taken in.

The bells of several of the city churches were rung on Saturday last, and on the evening of the same day several houses were illuminated.

It is almost inconceivable how great and general the joy is at a late happy event.

March 6. Yesterday a body of two hundred members of the house of commons carried up the bill to the house of peers, for repealing the American Stamp act. An instance of such a number going up with a single bill, has not been known in the memory of man.

Great debates are expected to-morrow in a noble assembly, on an important affair now depending.

About 12 o'clock on Thursday night a gentleman was so certain of the determination of an important affair, that he back'd his opinion by the offer of 250l. against 122l.

NEW-YORK, *April* 14.

A Sloop from the Havannah arrived here since our last informs of the actual Departure from thence in the Month of February, of the Spaniards, to take Possession of the Island of New-Orleans, in the Mississippi—This Sloop brought in with her, only 22,000 Dollars, private Property.

To Morrow the Supreme Court sits here.

BOSTON, *April* 21.

The Merchants in London are so certain of the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, that they have sent large Quantities of Goods to their Correspondents here, tho' contrary to the Counter Orders they received with Respect to the same.

Captain Shand was to leave London for this Place, about the 20th March, who, we doubt not, will bring an authenticated Account of the REPEAL of the Stamp Act.

By Letters from London we learn, That the late Minister M——r was like to be Impeach'd for concealing the Remonstrances of the Colonies, and other material Papers, that were sent before the Stamp Act pass'd.

Extract of a Letter from London, *dated Feb.* 28. 1766.

"I must inform you, that your Friends in Parliament have said to me, that tho' they have done this for you, yet your future Happiness depends upon yourselves. Mr. Gr—ll has prophesied the most ungrateful Returns to the Mother Country for this Lenity of Parliament, but I hope he will be disappointed as to all the Colonies. Pretty certain I am that your Province will, being a brave free People, and not Slaves."

London, Feb. 17, 1766.

"The present Ministry it may be depended upon are the real friends of America, or rather of the whole nation, as interests cannot be seperated—Neither the petitions of the Congress, nor of those Governments who petitioned seperately, have been received, as they contain an assertion of rights which the Parliament have resolved that they have not—The great & good Mr. Pitt, and Barre, and others in the house of Commons were against these resolves, as were Mr Pratt, Lord Shelburne, Torrington, and Cornwallis, &c. in the house of Lords. The former supported your petitions in the house of Commons; however they have had their full effect, as by them the sense and spirit of the Colonies have been discovered; and the many who had large debts in America seeing that their own ruin would be the consequence of enforcing the Act, immediately became your warmest advocates—The agreement of your merchants not to send for any goods from hence until a repeal was a clencher. One manufactorer who attended the Parliament declared, unless that act was soon repealed, he should dismiss 1200 workmen; and it was hinted that 100000 manufacturers would soon be in London—The wisdom as well as the upright views of Mr. Pitt's intentions, in founding the repeal of the stamp-act, upon the footing of its being illegal, and insupportable by the colonies, rather than upon its being for the interest of our own merchants and manufacturers, tho' really the case, is highly applauded by the discerning, as it would have reflected honor on the Act and convinced the colonies of our justice and tenderness for them, and thereby gained their confidence and affection, which, in the present way may be lost for ever; and frugality and industry still continue to be the popular topic among you—To secure a repeal of the acts the reason given for the Ministry's falling in with the party for these previous resolves, they have really had a difficult task of it; and their hands weakned by letters and accounts from the Greenvillian tools on your side of the water, very injurious to the colonies.—It is tho't you will not well relish the resolve, "That those persons, who have been active in endeavouring to support the Act imposing Stamp Duties on the colonies, be taken into the Royal favor and protection," unless it is that thereby those your friends will be clearly pointed out to you—Upon the whole you are much obliged to your friends here, and have little to fear from your enemies:—Those among yourselves will expose you to the greatest dangers and inconveniences; but all the true friends of America here, are upon the watch tower, and will endeavour to counteract their evil design."

Extract of a Letter from Bristol *dated March* 1.

"Never was Joy more general, or Citizens Hearts more sensibly touched than ours on Monday last, on hearing the favourable turn of the American Affairs. The bells throughout the City rang incessantly the whole Day, and in the Evening were uncommon Bonfires; Several Houses were illuminated, the American Coffee-House in particular, from whose Windows the Merchants trading to that Quarter of the World, generously threw Money to the Populace, who in return appeared decently thankful."

By a Gentleman who came Passenger in Captain Jacobson, we are favored with the following authentic Account of a Bill having passed the House of Commons for repealing the STAMP-ACT, viz.

"That on February 21st the House met, at which Time there was great Debates relative to the right of Parliament in taxing the Americans; and about 2 o'clock on Saturday Morning (the 22d) the Question was put for repealing or continuing the Stamp Act, and on the House being divided the number for repealing were 275, those against it were 167, so there was a majority of 108 for repealing the Act.—On Monday morning the 24th of February, Mr.——took an Opportunity when most of the Members (who on the Saturday Morning before were for repealing the Act were absent, to make a Motion that the Bill might be re committed to a Committee of the whole House; which some of the absent Members soon heard of and immediately sent Messengers and wrote Letters to their Friends, which brought them directly to the House; soon after which the question was put, and the House divided, and on counting the Numbers for and against repealing the Act, they found that there was the same majority for repealing that there was the Saturday before.—On Monday the 3d of March, the Bill was engross'd and Tuesday the 4th it was read a third Time in the House of Commons, and pass'd there by a majority of 128. On Wednesday the 5th it was carried to the House of Lords and read, where it met with a very favourable Reception.—It was on Thursday the 6th read a second Time, & it was thought it would pass at the third reading, and meet with the Royal Assent before the End of next Week."—

Extract from the Votes of the Hon House of Commons (prior to the Resolve for REPEALING the Stamp Act) Feb. 24.

RESOLVE VI.

"That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that all Persons, who, by Reason of the Tumults and Outrages in *North-America*, have not been able to procure Stamped Paper, since the passing of the Act for laying certain Duties of Stamps in the Colonies, ought to be indemnified from all Penalties, and Forfeitures, which they may have incurred, by writing, ingrossing, or printing on Paper, Vellum, or Parchment, not duly Stamped, as required by the said Act, under proper Restrictions."

Messieurs EDES & GILL,

Please to give the following Lines a Place in your next, and you will oblige one of your constant Readers. X. Y.

To General Ruggles, on reading of the Accident that lately befel him at Hardwick.

SAY now poor *Tim*, (if these few Lines
Should find you yet alive)
A'nt this a much severer Bruise,
Than *Reprimand* could give.

If that could not Repentance bring,
Yet now you plainly see,
That all your native Country's Trees
Are *Trees of Liberty*.

Your faithful Woods themselves have prov'd
This Observation just,
When Freedom's Sacred Trees are fell'd,
They crush *her* Foes to Dust.

Believe now, *Tim*, this honest Truth,
Nor think it still a Joke.
No *Son of Slavery* can stand
Before a Heart of *Oak*.

FILIUS LIBERTATIS
NEO HANTONIENSIS.

[*The Piece relating to the Church in* Dedham, *will be in our next*]

(*Advertisements omitted will certainly be in our next*)

To be Sold, a few Bushels of Hemp-Seed, of last Year's Growth; also about 30 or 40 yards of dressed Homespun Cloth, for Mens Summer Cloathing, enquire of Edes & Gill.

These are pursuant to a Request to me directed, to notify and warn all the Proprietors of the *Narraganset* Township. No. *Four*, lying partly at *Greenwich*, and partly West of and adjoining to *Hatfield*, that they assemble and meet together at the Dwelling House of Capt. *Jeremiah Powers*, in said *Greenwich*, Innholder, on Monday the Sixteenth Day of *June* next, at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon, to act on the following Articles. 1. To choose a Moderator. 2dly. To choose a Proprietor's Treasurer, the present Treasurer being desirous to be dismissed. 3dly. To see if the Proprietors will agree to sell the Common and Undivided Land at Vendue, in Order to pay the Debts of said Propriety 4thly. To do any other Business that may be thought advantageous to said Proprietors. Dated at *Greenwich*, this 14th Day of *April A. D.* 1766.

JOSEPH MOFFAT, Prop'rs Clerk.

TO BE SOLD,
By Benjamin Church,
At his usual Place of Sale, on FRIDAY next.

BRoad Cloths, Kerseys, Whitneys, Camblets, Tammies, Irish Hollands, Checks, Bed-Tickens, Chints, figur'd Cottons Lawns, Gauzes, Handkerchiefs, Mens Hose, Stone Buckles, Buttons, Seals, &c &c. some Wearing Apparel. Silver Watches, &c. &c. &c. Sundry Articles of Houshold, viz. Mehogany & Black Walnut Chair Frames, Mehogany Rule Joint Tables, Tea Tables, Feather Beds, Bedsteads, Chairs, &c.

To be Sold at Public VENDUE,
By *Moses Deshon*,
At the Newest Auction-Room, opposite the West End of *Faneuil*-Hall, Dock-Square;
Next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings;
A General Assortment of European Goods suitable to the Season; Houshold Furniture. &c &c.

CUSTOM HOUSE, BOSTON ENTERD IN.

Allen & Mathew from Philadelphia. Hatch from Carolina. Williams from St Cruz. Fyndman from Virginia. Smith from Lisbon. Oakes from Louisbourg. Jacocks, Homer, Degget and Phillips from North-Carolina. Bradford and Davis from Martineco. Hodgkins from Guadaloup. Pierpoint from Maryland. Dobson from New Castle. Calef from London. Taylor. Hurd, Burnham, Freeman and Blake from Connecticut.

OUTWARD BOUND.

Freeman for Rhode-Island and Connecticut. Smith and Cook in for Rhode-Island and New York. Taylor for Connecticut. Wier for Quebec. Lazneau for Newfoundland. Watts and Taylor for West Indies.

Buried in the Town of Boston, since our last,
Nine Whites. NO Blacks.
Baptiz'd in the several Churches Seven.

High Water at Boston, *for this present Week,*

Monday,	55 m. aft. 8	Friday,	0 m. aft. 12
Tuesday,	44 m. aft. 9	Saturday	54 m. aft 12
Wednesday,	27 m. aft. 10	Lord's-day,	41 m. aft. 1
Thursday,	20 m. aft. 11	Full ☽ 24 Day,	7 Even.

Timothy Ruggles. # Grenville. # Ditto. ¶ Ditto. ∴ vide Speech page 403. (G) page 394. (g) see page 381 (—) vide page 1845. V. See Resolves page 390 (M) vide the agreement in the Index under (M) Merchants (0000000000000000) vide the act pa. 53